

ILLINOIS TOWNS

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# Illinois

## Illinois Towns

W-Z

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

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## 70TH BIRTHDAY OF WAUKEGAN IS CELEBRATED

### Parade Recalls Visit Made by Lincoln.

Waukegan yesterday became for an afternoon the settlement town of 1860 when Abraham Lincoln, then a presidential candidate, rode in a carriage down the main street and was greeted by crowds of cheering men in high hats and frock coats and women in bustled skirts and tiny hats.

The north shore city, which is one of the oldest towns in Illinois, celebrated its 80th year as an organization and 70th year as a city. Proceeds were given to the Goodfellowship settlement, a charitable organization, and the entire population turned out to celebrate, many donning the fashions of three-quarters of a century ago for the occasion.

#### Hold Old Time Market.

Upton park was turned into an old fashioned market square, while the two blocks south from the park were lined with old fashioned groups representing the customs of Little Fort, as Waukegan was known before it became a city.

The climax of the celebration was a reproduction of Lincoln's visit to the town. Riding in a carriage 90 years old, the character who portrayed Lincoln was followed in a parade by several hundred early settlers, most of whom had passed more than 60 years in Lake county.

When Lincoln came to the town, a warehouse fire interrupted his speech, it was recalled, and he himself left the platform to run to the fire and help put it out. He was the guest at that time of Mayor E. P. Ferry and Mayor Ferry's daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth A. Leary, 78 years old, took part in the parade yesterday.

#### Kin of First White Man There.

Also in the parade were Daniel Wigham, grandson of Daniel White, first

white man born in Lake county, and Mrs. R. H. Aiken, granddaughter of the first white woman born in the county. State's Attorney A. V. Smith was marshal of the parade.

North shore society women took part in the celebration. Carl Sandburg and Dorothy Aldis autographed their books for those who wished them. Mrs. Joseph T. Bowen and Jane Addams also played a part in the celebration.

Among those in costume were Mrs. K. M. Wilkins, a descendant of Nathaniel Hawthorne; Miss Avis Edwards, great-great-granddaughter of Elmsley Sunderlin, an early settler who lent the money to buy the first courthouse site; Andrew Cooke and Miss Mary Cooke, whose grandfather, Homer Cooke, escorted Lincoln in Waukegan.

#### Show First Motion Picture.

The first motion picture of women ever taken in the United States, a film taken in Waukegan in 1896, was part of the exhibit. One of the town's first fire engines was in the parade, and a group of high wheeled bicycles. The market square contained a reproduction of Thomas Jenkins' store, the first corner grocery in Waukegan, and there was the town's first old book shop.

As the carriage containing the portrayal of Lincoln was driven along Sheridan road, an old churning party was shown on one lawn, an old quilting party on another, an old time wedding on one side of the street, a quaint old tea party, and groups of old ladies knitting.

CHICAGO ILL TRIBUNE  
SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 1929.

## ANTIQUE BOOK SHOP AT FETE

An old-fashioned book shop decorated with old-fashioned prints, portraits and old blue and white bedspreads, with new-fashioned authors autographing their modern books, will be one of the colorful features of the Old Waukegan Days fete to be held in the old town Saturday, under the auspices of the Goodfellowship Settlement.

Jane Addams will be there to autograph her "Spirit of Youth in Our City Streets." Mrs. Joseph T. Bowen will be ready to sign her name on copies of her "Growing Up With Chicago," and Dorothy Aldis will be armed with pen to write little verses of dedication to her verse volumes, "Here, There and Everywhere" and "Anything and Everything."

Pictures of Abraham Lincoln and Ferris' "Contrabands," postcards of the times of Lincoln, and a reproduction of Waukegan's old paper, the Little Fort Porcupine, will also be on exhibition.

The committee in charge of the old bookshop includes three direct descendants of Gov. Bradford, two direct descendants of Anne Bradstreet, America's first poet; four descendants of Priscilla and John Alden, and one descendant of the grandfather of Nathaniel Hawthorne, America's first novelist.

CHICAGO ILL JOURNAL  
THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1929.



# LINCOLN HERE 71 YEARS AGO

## His Waukegan Speech Was Interrupted By Warehouse Fire At Lakefront.

Today is the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, and every patriotic citizen of this country thinks back with love and appreciation upon the great American, who did so much to save the nation at a time when it looked as though the United States would cease to be a union.

The people of Waukegan show especial interest in the day on account of the fact that Lincoln came to this city in 1860 to deliver a campaign speech, prior to his election as president a year later.

The detailed account of Lincoln's visit here, which follows, was told to a Daily News reporter six years ago by the late John Douglas, a pioneer of the city, and has been published each year since that time.

Lincoln spoke in Waukegan on April 2, 1860, at the old Dickinson hall on Washington street in the building which is now occupied by O'Farrell's Recreation rooms. Mr. Lincoln was introduced to the audience by Ellsha P. Ferry, then a leading republican in the state and county.

As Lincoln was in the midst of his oration the town fire bell rang and the people started to rush for the door. Lincoln attempted to calm the audience and told them that it was merely a false alarm turned in by the democrats in an endeavor to break up the meeting. Lincoln had been told that such might be the case before the meeting had come to order, on account of the intense feeling which existed between the two parties at the time. The fire bell rang for the second time, fully convincing Lincoln and all those present that there really was cause for alarm.

A huge blaze had broken out in a large grain house near what is now known as the north pier and which was then the property of William M. Case. Lincoln stood at the top of the bluff with Ferry and watched the flames for some time, and later returned to the Ferry home for the night as it was evident that there would be no more meeting that evening.

The Ferry residence was the house

corner of Julian and County streets and at the present writing there is a ~~bronze tablet~~ on the house, placed there by the National Historical society, stating that Lincoln spent the night there. Mr. Jones bought the home recently from the L. H. Prentice heirs.

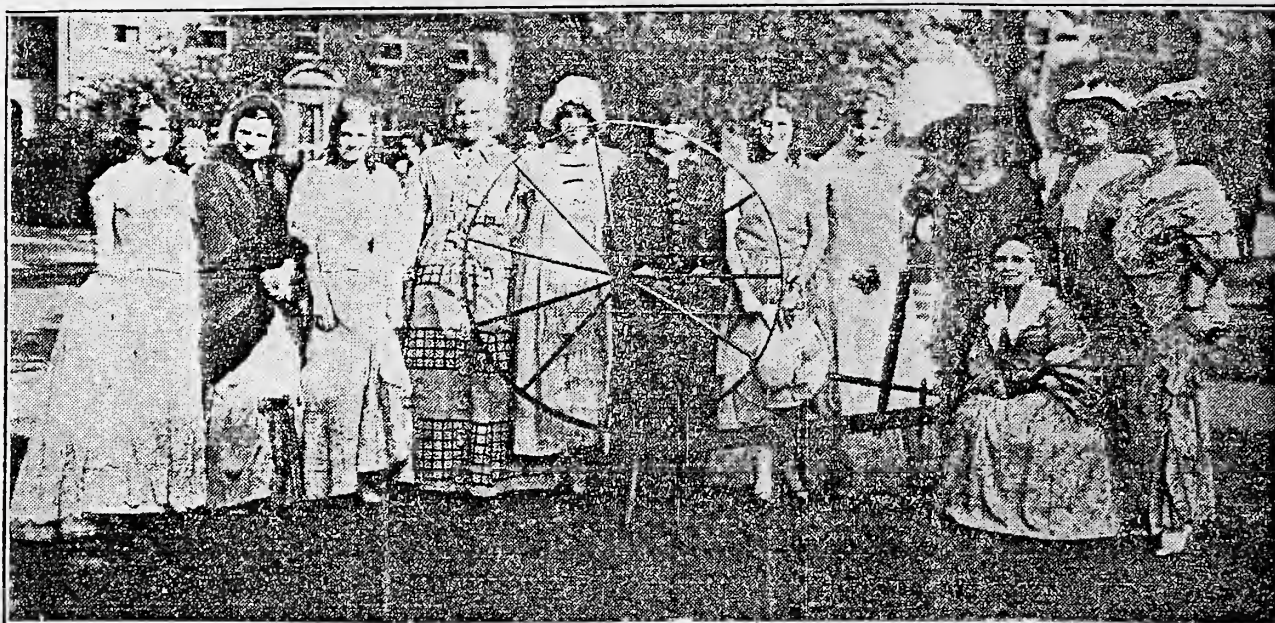
An interesting and coincidental event took place the following morning at the Ferry home. A baby boy was born to Mrs. Ferry and was later christened Abraham Lincoln Ferry in commemoration of the visit from the man who was soon to become the president. Abraham Lincoln Ferry left Waukegan shortly after he reached manhood and his whereabouts is now unknown.

All the aforementioned events took place 71 years ago.

It never was discovered who set fire to the warehouse, but it was the general feeling among the republicans for some time after the blaze, that some over-ardent democrat had something to do with it.

WAUKEGAN ILL. SUN  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1931.

## RECALL OLD DAYS AS WAUKEGAN CELEBRATES 70TH ANNIVERSARY



Left to right: Marion Black, Helen Buck, Betty Judd, Ella Buck, Winifred Ford, Margareta Bairstow, Magdalene Nesbitt, Grace Durst, Mrs. Y. Brewster, Mrs. Ben Thacker, Mrs. Fred Buck, and Mrs. Arthur Wilson, in costume, seated around old spinning wheel in Waukegan yesterday when city celebrated 70th birthday.

[TRIBUNE Photo.]

**Two Days In Winchester.**

Lincoln spoke at Winchester Sept. 28 and 29 during the 1858 senatorial campaign. Arriving late on the twenty-eighth, he addressed a meeting held a mile west of town. The following day he spoke in the courthouse. While there, he stayed at the Haggard house, and wrote verses for Rosa and Linnie Haggard, daughters of his host. *Ill. St. Journal*











# Lives of Inhabitants Show Progress Scott County Has Made Since It Was Formed

By MRS. TEMPLE IRWIN GROUT

Progress may be an illusory thing but many marks are made as progress marches on through the years. It has left its mark in Scott county not in great tall buildings, in factories filled with steel machines nor in extensive air fields filled with croning ships. Rather, it has left its mark in the lives of men, women and children.

One a portion of four different counties before it was finally contained in its present area, Scott county was first a part of St. Clair county, then



Mrs. Temple Irwin Grout

Madison and following the admission of Illinois into the union it became a part of Greene county and from 1823 to 1839 a portion of Morgan county. James Scott, Thomas Allen, Alfred Young, John Scott, Adam Miller, and Thomas Stevens were the first white men to settle in Scott county. These men and the families of three of them emigrated from Casey, Ky. Their means of transportation is recorded as the old covered wagon. Joseph Henderson in his early history of Scott County, says that they selected their first camp site here, because they saw "coon tracks pretty plenty." And as they tracked these, they came across a large flock of wild turkeys. Mr. Henderson located this first camp site as the present Wm. Gordon farm southwest of Lynville. He states that later Mr. Allen erected the first human habitation that was ever built within the present confines of Morgan, Cass, or Scott counties.

Sarah Allen, Thomas's wife, is supposed to be the first white woman to have settled within the boundaries of what we now call Scott county. It is said that Thomas Allen brought to the county the first farm implements. Of these six settlers, James Scott, the last survivor of the party, remained in the county the greatest length of time. He lived here until 1864 when he moved to Macoupin county.

A log cabin located southeast of Exeter, housed the first school. It was taught by Miss Jeanette Wheeler, who later married Phineas Bronson. The earliest church meetings were held in the homes of our pioneers. Later, Peter Cartwright conducted his famous camp meetings in Scott county, and finally the churches, as we know them, were built.

## Exeter Is Oldest Town

The oldest town in the county is Exeter. Exeter was platted in June, 1825. Naples, was the second town to be laid out and this was done in August 1825. Naples is Scott county's river town, while Exeter will always be remembered as the place in 1861 where General U. S. Grant tied his men when he stopped here on his way to the Illinois, to embark for the South. It is said that he tied his men so that they would not imitate him so freely. For, at this time, one of the largest distilleries was located in Exeter. Exeter is now a quiet, peaceful neighborhood of about forty families. One or two hillside coal mines give some winter employment to augment the summer's farm work, while the Exeter Gravel Pit supplies a large part of the materials used to improve the county's highways.

Nearby, the old Haskell homestead receives those who still love to recall the anecdotes of days gone by. In the Haskell "cabin" as residents of Scott and neighboring communities affectionately call it, are preserved the first clock brought into the neighborhood, the old saddle bag, and the oxen yoke. Over the big fireplace in which a log so easily is lost, the iron kettle still hangs. Its walls are hung with such records as the homestead's entry, the family's war service and other interesting documents of the past. This is perhaps one of the favorite haunts of visitors to Scott.

Naples is not only a fisherman's paradise but it is a commercial fisherman's market. One is surprised to learn that 14,000 pounds of fish are taken and shipped from this point in one year. In 1926, Naples suffered from the flood waters of the Illinois river but new levees and deepened river channels, which our national government is largely responsible for, have given a greater sense of security. Nothing could be more picturesque than the sight of the river packet, tied up at Naples, while its Negro helpers, barrels of apples on their backs, whistle and sing its cargo into its place. For Naples' neighboring orchards produce a considerable quantity of apples for shipment.

## Winchester 106 Years Old

In the year of 1830, Winchester, the county seat of Scott county, was taken off into thirty-six town lots. The story of Winchester's beginning is told in John G. Henderson's history of Scott county. The story is that David Casebeer, J. P. Wilkinson, A. T. Hite, were the town's sponsors. It is related that J. P. Wilkinson had started Mr. Hite in the business of selling dry goods and whiskey and that Mr. Casebeer was the owner of a tannery. Both of these businesses were located on Big Sandy creek, about one mile southward of the present Winchester town square.

It is said that Mr. Hite and Mr. Casebeer decided upon the location for the town and that A. T. Hite persuaded his benefactor, Mr. Wilkinson, to purchase the land from David Casebeer. This done, John Shelton remained off with a grape-vine, according to the story, the new town lots. The honor of naming the new town was given to Mr. Hite. It is said the price of this honor was a gallon of whiskey and that after all had partaken, Hite named the town "Winchester" after Winchester, Clark county. The first birth in Winchester was that of Mary Hite, daughter of Tolbert Hite. The first death was that of William Lee.

These towns, Exeter, Naples and Winchester, were laid out before the winter of the deep snow, 1830 to 1831.

This was a winter of much privation and intense suffering for our pioneers. It is recorded that the game and wild animal life suffered starvation. The quail were said to have become almost extinct.

The Black Hawk war, the Indian uprising which occurred in 1831, drew a large number of soldiers from this community. Daniel Leib was made a colonel in one of the states regiments of soldiers. Fritz Haskell, in his history of Scott county, compiled in 1930, reports that 165 men enlisted from Morgan county, of which Scott was then a part.

In 1833 the county was visited by cholera. At this time large numbers lost their lives, not only was there fearful loss of life but the spirit and courage of the population was killed by its great fear. Neighbors hesitated, in many instances, to assist neighbors, even in the burial of a cholera dead.

## Progress Slow

Progress was painful and slow. Agriculture still depended upon the hoe and a hand reaper and a wooden plow. Creeks and streams were still forded, not bridged. The nearest post office was at Alton. We must remember that there was no telephone or telephone service at this time. News was broadcast by a horseback rider. Candles were the means of illumination. Can we, in this day, imagine life during the long winter evenings without our radios? Our pioneers were independent of many of the things upon which we lean. They made their own clothing, cobbled their shoes, and provided all of the vegetables, fruits, and meats which the family must use.

It was twenty-five years before the organization of the public district school when Stephen A. Douglas started his school in Winchester. This school was kept the winter of 1833-1834. Shortly afterwards Mr. Douglas began the practice of law in Jacksonville. A monument was erected, November, 1929, to Stephen A. Douglas in the public square at Winchester.

There are some living in the county who recall the stories their fathers told them of the great Douglas rally which was held in the fall of 1858. It is related that the committee duly appointed to receive Mr. Douglas failed to meet him and that he rode into Winchester on a wagon driven by the late Judge James Warren. The Coultas family had the distinction of accompanying Mr. Douglas upon his first arrival to teach school.

Scott county residents like to quote from Mr. Douglass speech made to voters at the 1858 rally: "Here I first found the settlers of the country my friends. My first start in life was taken here not only as a private citizen, but my first election to public office was conferred upon me by the people whom I am now addressing and their fathers. There is no spot on this vast globe which fills me with such emotions as when I come to this place and recognize the faces of the old and very good friends who now surround me and bid me welcome."

It was George Fort Milton's pleasure to revisit this community in his quest for source material for his book, "The Eve of Conflict." At the time of Mr. Milton's visit he drove over the road said to have been traveled by Mr. Douglas and he talked with the late Judge J. M. Riggs and the family of the late Dr. James Milner, Winchester. Both of these men loved to recount the events of Stephen A. Douglas' life as they pumped plants, levees and irrigation knew it. Dr. Milner's father had ditched the national government has housed Mr. Douglas upon his first arrival in Winchester and also assisted him to obtain pupils for his school. Mr. Riggs recalled with pride the occasion of the Douglas rally.

## Churches Organized

Five years before Winchester was platted the Baptist church had an organization. In June, 1925, the First Baptist church in Winchester celebrated the one hundredth anniversary of its organization.

Nine years later the First Methodist church, Winchester, was organized. This was in March, 1934. The one hundredth anniversary of the founding of this church was held two years ago.

One cannot recount the history of these two churches without mention of the virile Christian figure—Stephen Paxton. Mr. Paxton first became a Sunday school worker in the Union Sunday School conducted at Winchester. From this interest was developed by Mr. Paxton's leadership the first Sunday school convention ever held.

It was the church in Scott county that sponsored the first burgoon picnic as a church benefit. These picnics have now become a Scott county institution. They are sponsored during the months of July and August. Burgoon is a soap made from stewed meats and vegetables and highly seasoned. The recipe has been handed down by several old time burgoon makers. During the world war one of these picnics netted about \$2,000.

One must remember that these things were happening before Scott county, as we know it, was created. Scott county with its present boundaries was organized by the eleventh general assembly of the state of Illinois Feb. 16, 1839. This was the last assembly to meet in Vandalia. The next session of the legislature convened in the new capital—Springfield. There were nine representatives from Morgan county in the eleventh general assembly. William Gilham in this assembly might be said to have been Scott's first representative.

The area of this small county is approximately 250 square miles. Nearly one-fourth of this area is Illinois river bottom land. Perhaps this is Scott county's most fertile acreage. It is that narrow strip of land which runs 22 miles north and south, the length of the county along the Illinois river. This fertile strip of bottom land extends eastward to the mounds or sandridge. The remaining area consists of rolling prairie, creek bottoms, together with some sandy and wooded areas. The county is traversed by two large creeks, the Mauiavesterre and Big Sandy.

## Two Courthouses

No record of a land entry previous to the year 1822 is found. Winchester agreed if made the county seat to furnish a county courthouse and jail. The first county courthouse was built in the center of the present public square. Lincoln and Douglas spoke in this courthouse. The present Scott county courthouse was not constructed until 1885. The first jail was constructed of logs and stood where the present jail is located. This jail burned in 1831. The jail which is now used was built in 1852.

In Scott county there are two organized drainage districts. Besides James Milner, Winchester. Both of the expenditures made by the committees of these districts for the pumping plants, levees and irrigation know it. Dr. Milner's father had ditched the national government has housed Mr. Douglas upon his first arrival in Winchester and also assisted him to obtain pupils for his school. Mr. Riggs recalled with pride the occasion of the Douglas rally.

The population of Scott county is approximately 8,000 inhabitants. Immigration to this county in the beginning was chiefly from the southern and eastern states. Its first settlers were largely from Kentucky, Tennessee and New England. Probably no county in Illinois has so pure a native American element.

Seven years after the organization of Scott county the country went to war with Mexico. It is said that Samuel Montgomery commanded a company of 65 men from Scott, six of whom were killed in this war.

Chronologically the Civil war period followed. Like so many other counties Scott is rich in the memories of these long, tense years. It is in the memory of those ties which bound it so close to that great crisis of this period—Abraham Lincoln.

## Lincoln's Visit

In September, 1858, on the twenty-sixth day, Abraham Lincoln made his memorable visit to Winchester. It is recorded the day was an unusually hot and dusty one. Mr. Lincoln addressed a great meeting at a fair grounds. The subject of his address has been much discussed. James Milner, used to say it was a Kansas-Nebraska question and at in those days it was rumored at Mr. Lincoln used this occasion to try his speech on the simple folk of this small community. It must have been well received for Mr. Lincoln repeated his address to an evening meeting held in the courthouse. Lincoln was given a public reception at the "Haggard House." This was the next evening after the speech making. One of the charmingest of these night is a photograph which he wrote to Mr. Haggard's daughter, Linnie, who had entertained with a song.

Scott county was credited with having sent eleven companies to the Civil war. Four of these companies departed on Aug. 5, 1862. These were companies D, F, H and I of the 129th Illinois regiment. Besides these there were companies B of the 27th Illinois, C of the 28th, F of the 61st, G of the 91st and E of the 137th Illinois regiments.

Many of these men died from disease and wounds. Twenty-three were killed at the battle of Vicksburg. One of these was William Neat, both of whom lost a leg in battle.

## A Lone Survivor

The county's lone survivor of this conflict is Samuel W. Peak, Winchester. Mr. Peak was a member of company F of the 129th Illinois. Mr. Peak is active for his 96 years and last spring found him preparing his garden. Much of his day time is spent "fiddlin." Mr. Peak plays on a violin that he fashioned in his eightieth year. He proudly recalls how while listening to a speech by Abraham Lincoln that Mr. Lincoln pointed his finger at him and said, "don't you know that is true?" Mr. Lincoln was making a reference to a speech made upon a previous occasion and Mr. Peak having been present thinks that Mr. Lincoln remembered his face. Mr. Peak missed the services on Memorial day, 1935, for the first time in many years.

It was Oct. 8, 1869, that Rockford, Rock Island and St. Louis Railroad company finished its road through Winchester. Reports give the cost per mile through Scott county as \$12,500. Now we say another mile of hard road is finished. The county boasts of 38½ miles of paved highways which give it direct outlets to the north, south, east and west. Besides the paved highways, gravelled farm-to-market roads traverse the county in all directions.

Lastly we write of that period of the great World war and the present. One thousand eight hundred and forty-one young men between the ages of 18 and 45 years were registered under the provisions of the selective draft act. These statistics from Fritz Haskell's Centennial History credit the following draft and volunteer enlistments from Scott: Army, 379; Navy, 21; Marines, 17. Of this number 192 served overseas. Julian Wells, Hardin Fowler, Charles Wolford, Erwin C. Cammerer, Newton Kamp and Daniel Tankersley were killed in action. In May, 1928, Scott county's Soldiers' Memorial was erected in the public park. Winchester. This memorial bears four bronze tablets upon which are inscribed the names of veterans of all wars.

## Evidences of Leadership

Organizations such as the Scott County Farm Bureau, the Winchester Women's Club, The Brotherhood, American Legion and Auxiliary and the Kiwanis Club are evidences of the leadership of Scott county's men and women.

The Winchester Public Library, the only public library in the county, was the inspiration of the members of the women's club. These women were instrumental in obtaining the aid of Andrew Carnegie as well as many citizens at home and abroad.

It is impossible to know or to mention the names of all of those who have contributed to the growth, life and welfare of Scott county. The largest population center is Winchester, the county seat. Its population is approximately 1,500.

There are four banks in the county, one national bank and three state banks. These banks are located at Winchester, Alsey and Bluffs. The Neat, Condit and Grout National Bank observed the fiftieth anniversary of its founding in January of this year. William Frost of the First State Bank, Winchester, has the distinction of being a member of the banking firm which his family helped to organize.

One of the men who possibly has done as much or more than any other one man to bring the name of Winchester and Scott county to national attention is George W. Peak, internationally known horseman. Mr. Peak for more than a half a century has bred and shown thoroughbred horses throughout the United States, capturing prizes in practically every show in which he takes part.

His string of horses is known throughout the land and a show is not complete without several of Mr. Peak's horses entered. At the 1935 International Livestock exposition held in Chicago Mr. Peak was significantly honored with the award of a medal signifying more than 50 years of showmanship.

The firm of Hainsfurther Bros., dry goods and clothing merchants, has been in business since 1858. Chriz Munze, veteran grocery man and baker, has been in business fifty years. Other merchants long associated with the business life and growth of the community are James M. Overton, W. B. Clark, George Owings, F. H. Allen, M. E. and J. A. Higgins of Winchester; Mr. Knoepfel, Fred Muntman of Bluffs; H. J. Rolf, Oxville; Ben Cowper, Glasgow; Mr. Hudson and Mr. Lashmet of Manchester.

The Alsey Brick and Tile company, Alsey, owned and managed by Henry McLaughlin and sons, represents the use to which one of the county's best resources is put. The brick made at this plant from clay mined at Alsey competes with the finest brick made elsewhere.

The Watt Construction Company has three state contracts of bridge work under construction at the present time.

It is difficult to speak of the professional ranks for within them are he who happily says "life begins at sixty" and produces a letter from a colleague in Australia to prove it; and the one who says, "I cannot lose one life." We wish to speak of the late Judge J. M. Riggs, of the late Judge Callans, of the firm of Funk and McKeene. Tom Priest, former state's attorney as well as the present state's attorney, C. C. Carter, but in our enthusiasm for this school we must not lose sight of the younger men. Such men as Judge Allen Watt and Norbert Hutchins are aspiring to their places.

Of Scott county it may be said: "Men and events have lived in me and passed. As lands have risen and dropped into the sea. Those I have named and those whose names. Only you can know. Do cherish and love these memories!"

Do keep the trust with them—  
Events and Men—  
Whose simple greatness and fortitude  
Made you these one hundred years.





